

- SUMMARY OF POLITICAL REPORT -

SASKATCHEWAN PROVINCIAL CONVENTION, LABOR-PROGRESSIVE PARTY

- NOVEMBER 17 & 18, 1945 -

The introduction to the report pointed to the victorious end of the people's war and the struggles that are now taking place in various parts of Europe and Asia to make certain that the remnants of fascism shall not frustrate the aims of the people's war and plunge humanity into a third world war. It pointed to the Soviet Union as the only country that has come out of the war with a plan for postwar reconversion and expansion, and for the raising of the standard of living of its people.

- THE L.P.P. FIGHTS FOR PROGRESSIVE REFORMS -

Pointing to the fact that Saskatchewan has a relatively progressive government, the report reiterates the stand the Party took in June, 1944, that it will at all times lend the fullest support to every measure enacted by the government which serves the interests of the people of this province, and will fight with the government against every attempt of monopoly capitalism to undermine and weaken the Saskatchewan government when it legislates in the interests of the people as in the case of the attempt by the C.P.R., the Hudson's Bay Company and one of the mortgage companies to have certain legislation disallowed because it gave a measure of protection to the debt-ridden individual farmers and municipalities of the province. In this instance we joined in the protest against disallowance and our action was acknowledged by Premier Douglas.

- THE GOVERNMENT'S LEGISLATION - ITS WEAKNESSES & SHORTCOMINGS -

The report commended the government on its labor legislation, increasing Old Age Pensions and Mothers' Allowances, providing free medical and hospital services for old age pensioners, and implementing the Liberal government's bill to take care of all cancer cases. Their work in the field of education, particularly in introducing the larger school unit, was also commended.

In giving recognition to the progressive legislation that has been passed, the report warned against the complacency expressed in the viewpoint that the Douglas government is a government that will keep faith with the people and carry out its program of reforms without being pressed to do so. This is an illusion that encourages passivity. The government is subject to

pressure from the employing class and wealthy farmers and will yield to such pressure unless the workers and small farmers are on the alert to press the case for their own welfare.

Weaknesses apparent in government policies are their lack of appreciation of Saskatchewan's dependence on world markets, and the relation of markets to world conditions. In other words there must be peace and there must be purchasing power on a world scale. The colonial system must be broken to enable markets to be opened in China, India and Africa. This would open a new era for the peoples of these countries who have never yet enjoyed a decent standard of life.

But the C.C.F. government's support for the policies of Ernest Bevin and the British Labor government augurs ill for the people of Saskatchewan. For the British Labor Government's foreign and colonial policies are calculated not to ensure peace and develop markets but to destroy the foundations of peace and restrict markets in the countries Britain dominates. This is to be seen in the British Labor Government's veiled hostility to the Soviet Union and in its intervention in Greece, Indonesia, and so on.

Progressive policies abroad — policies that will make possible expanding markets and a secure peace — will only be won if the labor and farm movement is roused and united to fight for them.

The fight for postwar security at home and abroad is being gravely endangered by those who would break up the unity of Britain and America and the Socialist Soviet Union, and undermine world cooperation. It is the Big Business monopolies that are leading in the sabotage of world security; but they are being helped by M.J. Coldwell, C.C.F. leader, when he states that the issue in the world today "is between democratic socialism and totalitarian communism". That is a slander taken from the book of the worst Soviet-haters, the Kirkconnells and the Hearsts. The foes of peace are overjoyed at the spectacle of C.C.F. MP'S such as Zaplitny, Castleden, etc., lining up in support of anti-Soviet Ukrainian White Guards who were part of Hitler's war machine.

C.C.F. supporters must be deeply disturbed by these developments, which follow the same direction as the sell-out by the Laborite government of Bevin and Attlee, which is paying 12½% profits to the shareholders of the Bank of England on the one hand — and copying the Tories in foreign policy, on the other.

But we cannot protest against Britain's foreign policy and ignore that of our own country. The fight for a correct foreign policy for Canada is a Saskatchewan issue and the responsibility of the provincial government becomes still greater to help mobilize and lead the fight for policies which will guarantee



first of all peace and secondly markets for the products of Canadian agriculture. The L.P.P. emphatically urges the Saskatchewan government to take up the struggle for such policies.

Again the Saskatchewan government does not seem to be sufficiently aware of the needs of the workers in our province, particularly in respect of union organization and wages. While on the one hand it has given Saskatchewan an excellent labor code, in its own industrial establishments - and notably the shoe factory in Regina - it has shown a disregard for the fundamental principles of trade unionism. In the shoe factory the management appointed by the government opposed union organization, sought to have certain soldiers working in the plant exempted from the union agreements, claiming that it was necessary to cut down costs to compete with plants in Winnipeg. In Moose Jaw the employees of the wool factory are paid 35¢ an hour, whereas the starting rate in capitalist-owned plants, such as Swift's, is 58¢ an hour. Such practices call for an energetic protest from the entire labor movement.

The government should clearly recognize that the welfare of the farmers and the workers is inseparable. When the worker is paid low wages the home market is restricted and the farmer suffers. The government thus should set the highest example in relation to its own employees. The L.P.P. will continue its work of explaining the similarity of interests of workers and farmers and calls upon the government to do likewise in its education and publicity program.

The report further criticized the government for failing to give leadership to the province and to the West generally on the important issue of parity prices for agricultural products. Other points of criticism are:

Retention of the education tax, especially in view of the CCF pre-election campaign against the Liberal Party for not abolishing the tax.

Failure to tackle the problem of road building in view of the deplorable state of both the highways and, more particularly, the market roads of the province.

The present license fee on farm trucks, which are used mainly on municipal roads, and the license fees imposed on small trappers, fishermen, saw-mill operators, etc., are all due for review and downward revision.

The proposed new curriculum of studies for Saskatchewan high schools which, by bracketing together the social system of the Soviet Union with Italian fascism and German nazism as a totalitarian system violates the very aim it professes, viz: to give the student "an understanding of social structures and social processes" and to make of him "a cooperating member of

a world society", and spreads the kind of slanderous distortion which split the democratic peoples and paved the way to World War II.

Failure of the government to cleanse the civil service and some departments of Liberal and Tory politicians.

In view of the high percentage of farmer tenancy in the province, due in part to foreclosures, the Saskatchewan government must aim to extend security of tenure to cover more than the home quarter section of the farmer. Few farmers can make a living on 160 acres of land.

The Saskatchewan Trade Union Act must be amended as demanded by the trade union movement, to give as much protection as possible to Saskatchewan workers in their struggle for organization until such time as the Trade Union Act is declared *intra vires* or otherwise.

#### - WHAT WE PROPOSE -

##### 1. A PROGRESSIVE CANADIAN FOREIGN POLICY.

We believe the people of Saskatchewan should become the foremost fighters for a Canadian policy which will include the utmost support for the United Nations organization, friendship with the Soviet Union, support for the liberation of the peoples of Europe and Asia from imperialist oppression, and ample credit to enable war devastated and impoverished countries to establish themselves once more. It is only in such a world as this that we may expect to find a market for our produce.

##### 2. PARITY PRICES AND THE ABOLITION OF SPECULATIVE TRADING IN WHEAT AND OTHER COMMODITIES.

Because of the unstable position of agriculture caused by fluctuations in the international markets and fluctuations caused by speculative trading in the main commodities of the farm, particularly wheat, the establishment of floor prices for agricultural products is a prime necessity. We contend that the producers of all the principal farm products should know the minimum price they will receive for their products for several years ahead. But a floor price alone will not solve the problem of parity which the farmer has been seeking for a great number of years. If parity is to mean anything it must mean that a certain quantity of grain will sell for enough to purchase a certain quantity of other goods - for example farm tractors or combines. A tractor that costs the price of 1000 bushels of wheat today at the floor price may be boosted, through monopoly control, to a figure which would take 1500 bushels of wheat to cover.



Therefore, unless the government will continue to keep a price ceiling on manufactured articles, particularly farm machinery, it appears to be necessary that a Board be established (on which most certainly both farmer and labor should be fully represented) which would examine the whole economic situation, and particularly the comparative prices of farm products and manufactured products, periodically as required, and adjust the former to keep them in line with the latter.

### 3. CROP INSURANCE

There should be adequate insurance against all the natural hazards — drought, frost, grasshoppers and disease, — adequate to meet the needs of the farmer and his family in the years of crop failure. The P.F.A.A., while very useful, is not providing adequate protection to the individual farmer. A scheme must be devised for giving greater protection to the farmers.

### 4. DEVELOPMENT OF OUR WATER RESOURCES.

A national plan for the development of our water and power resources, patterned after the famous Tennessee Valley Authority, could change the whole economic life of the province. In addition to the blessings irrigation and power development would bring to thousands of farm families, there is also the feature that such an irrigation and power development scheme would assist the establishment of secondary industries so essential to the diversification of our economy.

The laboratory to be established by the National Research Council at Saskatoon will be a tremendous step in the direction of developing industries in Saskatchewan. As stated above, the production of cheap power would be a great incentive to processing industries, . . . chemurgic plants, machinery assembly plants and so on. Chemurgic research should be directed towards utilizing the by-products of wheat, rather than the wheat itself (which in the case of No. 1 Northern, and even some of the lower grades, would be uneconomical), such as wheat straw, for instance, which could be used for building material.

On the question of public versus cooperative or private ownership of industry, we are of the opinion that the government should enter into industry only when no possibility of private or cooperative investment exists and an industry is urgently required to process agricultural products in order to create a market for them. These industries should be regarded in the light of a service to agriculture and should be operated at cost. We should make clear that we strongly advocate government ownership of such public utilities as gas, power and so on. These are natural monopolies and are safe only when they are in the hands of the people.

Development of the mineral and forest resources of Saskatchewan should take the form of thorough topographical and geographical surveys, forest conservation and so on, under government sponsorship. In carrying through this work the provincial government should establish the closest cooperation with lumbermen, trappers and fishermen of northern Saskatchewan who have the widest knowledge of the practical problems involved. The government should maintain control over the development of these resources.

#### 5. HIGHWAYS AND IMPROVED MARKET ROADS

A provincial road program should be undertaken by the government, especially a plan for practical assistance to municipalities for the building and improving of market roads according to need. Grants to municipalities for the improvement of market roads should be awarded according to need, giving consideration to each municipality's financial position and the condition of its roads, rather than the present flat rate of \$500. to each municipality.

Some form of federal assistance will be required for the hardsurfacing of our highways. To attract tourist traffic to the province we need at least two hard-surfaced highways running east and west and one from the international boundary to the Prince Albert National Park. The building of another 600 miles of railway lines would fill up a number of gaps in our rail transportation system. The railways should be pressed vigorously to carry out this work.

#### 6. LOWER PROTECTIVE TARIFF AND FAIRER FREIGHT RATES

We advocate the lowering of the tariff and support the report of the Saskatchewan Reconstruction Council to the effect "that a policy of low tariffs serves in the long run to make a better integrated economy and for more stable industries, both primary and secondary."

Saskatchewan has always paid a high toll to the railways in the form of freight rates. A comparison of the rates paid in Western Canada with those paid in Eastern Canada shows differences ranging from 39% to 80½% on certain commodities. Any attempt on the part of the railway corporations, including the C.N.R., to demand an increase in freight rates must be combatted by Saskatchewan people. In fairness to our province there should be a revision of rates downward to bring them into line with similar rates in Eastern Canada.

The use of the Hudson Bay route would greatly reduce shipping costs of western producers. Our party supports the demand for a Western Board of Management for the railway which will be representative of the people of the West who are most anxious



to make the route a success.

#### 7. COOPERATIVE PURCHASE AND USE OF FARM MACHINERY

The hold of the farm machinery monopoly can be offset to some extent by the development of the cooperative purchase and possibly manufacture of farm machinery. We believe, too, there is room for government and municipal encouragement to groups of farmers who wish to gain some of the benefits of large-scale production by purchasing jointly a piece of machinery, such as a combine, for instance. Loans should certainly be made available to encourage such progressive developments.

We wish especially to emphasize the problem of the small farmer. There is no doubt that if wheat prices fall to the floor of \$1.00 per bushel many small farmers may find their position very precarious. They simply cannot produce wheat for the price at which it is produced by larger farmers. We have referred already to the problem of increasing tenancy in this province which is the direct result of the squeezing out of the small farmer. Are we to take the position that the small farmer should be driven off the land without any regard for his years of toil on the land? This may seem a justifiable position to the Loan and Mortgage Association, but we doubt if any sincere progressive can view calmly such a solution to our problem which would bring to the Saskatchewan plains those conditions so vividly portrayed by John Steinbeck in his "Grapes of Wrath". The small farmer must receive help to remain on his land, and one of the most sensible ways of helping would seem to be to provide groups of small farmers with the necessary credit or even subsidy to enable them to buy larger machinery and thus secure some of the economic benefits of large scale production.

We do not entertain any utopian notions about the limitations of cooperative farming. Farmers are still highly individualistic, and the possibilities of cooperative farming on a large scale, within a general capitalist economy, are remote. Nevertheless cooperative farming can result in tremendous savings in farming operations, lowering costs of production through more efficient organization of effort, division of labor and more economical use of a minimum of machinery. Any faltering steps in this direction should receive government encouragement and the lessons of the experiences gained made available to all farmers. Perhaps the best possibilities lie in the direction of the cooperative use of certain types of heavy farm machinery and the development of cooperative methods of work on community irrigation projects.

#### 8. ESTABLISHMENT OF MACHINE SERVICE STATIONS

Our party draws attention to the fact that technical progress goes on and that during the war it reached its highest

level. It is clear that agriculture cannot escape this development. Better, more expensive and more efficient machinery has been developed.

On the one hand the appearance of such machinery is welcome from the point of view of saving labor and reducing the cost of production. On the other hand it might spell the ruin of the family farmer.

Reducing the cost of production of the family farmer and keeping the family farmer on his land is the duty of a progressive government.

To save the family farmer and make his toil remunerative, our party proposes that the provincial government establish machine service stations at various points in the province. Such stations would service the smaller farms in all land operations at cost. Such service would greatly reduce the cost of production of the small farmer.

Such stations serving the farmers could also contain an efficient machine repair shop to service the farmers cheaply and efficiently. The centres could also employ the most modern road machinery and keep the roads in repair throughout the year, thus again contributing to lowering the cost of production.

Finally, during the winter months these stations could be open for extension courses for young farmers to train them in the use of all farm machinery.

#### 9. ADEQUATE CREDIT TO BE PROVIDED AT LOWER INTEREST RATES.

Our party is of the opinion that the government should reorganize the provincial farm loan board to provide loans to farmers for buildings and production purposes at the lowest possible rates of interest.

The proposals for securing the prosperity of agriculture outlined in this program will, if put into effect, be sufficient guarantee of farmers' credit soundness to offset any danger of difficulties in collections occasioned by the protective legislation. The thousands of farmers who have at long last got out of the clutches of mortgage sharks during the war period, retiring many millions of dollars of debt which once was considered practically uncollectible, are evidence of the eagerness of farmers to meet even the heaviest obligations. They should not be left to fall again into the hands of the private corporations.

#### 10. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR A GOOD EDUCATION. REVISION OF THE CURRICULUM IN LINE WITH THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT AND FUTURE.

The first principle of a sound educational program is that



it should provide every child with an equal opportunity. Such an objective has been exceptionally difficult to attain in Saskatchewan by reason of the fleecing of the province by monopoly capitalism and the fact that its population is spread over such a wide area. The larger unit of administration has been a most important step in the direction of equalizing educational opportunity in Saskatchewan, and it is to be hoped that it will soon be in effect throughout Saskatchewan. The extension of grants, scholarships, dormitory high schools, all will play a most important part in equalizing secondary educational opportunity. The steady improvement effected in the condition of teachers in recent years must be continued in order that the profession will attract men and women of the high calibre required.

Hardly less important than the question of equal educational opportunity is that of the curriculum which must fit the child to take his place as a socially conscious citizen.

The extension of vocational training facilities in the province through the building, with Federal Government aid, of vocational technical schools and facilities and the expansion of the existing technical schools is an important need in this province.

Dealing with the practical angle of this subject, we will continue to advocate that hot lunches be served to all children attending village and rural schools. The practice of providing free milk to undernourished children should be extended to children whose parents are unable to give them the required quart a day. Perhaps in the case of the latter the milk could be supplied at a very nominal cost.

It is a well known fact that library facilities in the rural schools are few indeed, and this is a handicap both to teachers and pupils. Playground equipment is also inadequate. There is also a need for the establishment of more teacherages throughout the province. The L.P.P. will continue to press the government, municipalities and school boards for all these improvements.

#### 11. HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY.

It is common knowledge that there is a crying need in Saskatchewan for complete health services covering all parts of the province. There is also a growing sentiment among large groups of people that these services should be available to all members of the community and should be free of charge (i.e. paid for by the government), or at any rate covered by a special form of contributory insurance that would not bear heavily on workers and farmers in the lower income brackets.

The L.P.P. has always held that responsibility for the

major social services such as health, education, and so on, rests on the Dominion government and we will call for the support of a comprehensive national health scheme which will meet the needs of the people. However, while we maintain that health services properly belong to the federal domain, we believe it is a responsibility of the provincial and municipal governments to take the proper steps to alleviate the distress that is caused almost daily through the lack of adequate medical and hospital care for the people, particularly those in the rural areas.

A study of the Sigerist report and the brief of the State Hospital and Medical League to the Saskatchewan government reveals that there is a dire need for more hospitals and doctors to serve the rural communities. According to the Sigerist report "the hospital bed capacity in the province in 1943 was 3,209, including Sanatoria and Red Cross outposts". The highest percentage of those beds would naturally be in the city hospitals. Thus we can see that the rural communities are very poorly served in respect of hospital facilities. The same can be said of those communities in respect of practitioner services, where in many cases a doctor has such a wide territory to cover it is utterly impossible for him to give adequate attention to his patients. It is no wonder that the State Hospital and Medical League's brief could report the appalling fact that "20,000 mothers in Canada each year have no medical attention at childbirth and that during 1939 in this province 59 mothers lost their lives at this critical period, while 372 infants were still born".

While agitation should be continued for a Dominion scheme for free medical and hospital services for all, the question should be raised in various communities of establishing more municipal hospitals and increasing practitioner services in the municipalities and local improvement districts. Provincial government grants should be extended to the municipalities for these purposes.

The matter of preventive medicine and treatment is also a provincial one and a network of stationary as well as travelling clinics should be established as soon as possible, along the lines recommended in the Sigerist report. Particularly should physical defects in children be arrested on first appearance and treated to ensure a healthy adult population. Malnutrition, the source of so many latent physical disorders, must be combatted and beaten. A program dealing adequately with these problems of health and physical fitness will require the cooperation of government, city and municipal councils and John Citizen. The people will back the program if the government gives the lead.



12. CARRYING OUT OF AN EXTENSIVE RECREATIONAL AND PHYSICAL FITNESS PROGRAM.

The provincial government has some very good and elaborate plans in this connection on paper, but lack of funds prevent their full implementation. There is a need for greater federal assistance, and in view of the importance of such a program to the health and general wellbeing of our citizens, we should have every right to expect that such assistance will be forthcoming.

13. AN EXTENSIVE PROGRAM OF RURAL AND URBAN HOUSING ASSISTED BY FEDERAL SUBSIDY.

It is estimated that half the farm homes in Saskatchewan need to be replaced. In our cities desperate housing conditions obtain at present. The problem is one which can be adequately met only by the federal government. The provisions for loans under the National Housing Act are probably not yet liberal enough to give adequate assistance to the average farmer in building a new home. In this connection we would like to draw attention to the national proposal made by the Labor-Progressive Party. The party suggests a loan of one billion dollars be floated to secure funds to build homes for the people of Canada. With this sum 250,000 homes could be built, apportioned according to need over the urban and rural communities of the country. These homes would be sold to those who need them for \$20 to \$25 a month until the original cost has been paid back. The loan could then be paid off, and the people of Canada would be immeasurably better housed than at present.

14. SOCIAL SERVICES ON A SCALE ADEQUATE TO INSURE MINIMUM STANDARDS OF WELLBEING FROM THE CRADLE TO THE GRAVE.

Social services on an adequate scale can only be provided by the federal government. We heartily endorse the proposals contained in the Marsh report for providing social services from the cradle to the grave, including old age pensions; application of the principle of workmen's compensation to farmers incapacitated as a result of accident; insurance against sickness; survivor benefits to widows; plus grants to defray funeral expenses, and a number of other excellent proposals of this type. However, the whole question of social services is linked up with the re-adjustment of Dominion-provincial relations and until that vexing problem is settled there can be little hope that the people will benefit by the social services outlined in the report referred to. The provincial government must press the Dominion government to accept responsibility for putting into effect the Marsh proposals. The Labor-Progressive party will support any struggle of the government aimed in the direction of implementation of these proposals.

15. EVERY ASSISTANCE TO THE VETERAN TO BE REHABILITATED IN  
WORK AT WHICH HE CAN MAKE A DECENT LIVING.

The problem of the rehabilitation of veterans is primarily one of security. The various rehabilitation schemes of the Department of Veterans Affairs, as at present constituted, will attract a comparatively small number of returned men. The majority of veterans from rural areas desire to return to farming; the majority of veterans from urban areas to jobs.

In connection with the rehabilitation projects of the Department of Veteran Affairs, we advocate:

1. Red tape should be cut away from the administration of the Department so that veterans can readily obtain those benefits to which they are entitled without undue delay and hardship.
2. The provisions of the Veterans Land Act should be amended so that veterans desiring to take up farming might borrow up to \$7500 at a nominal interest of 2% instead of 3%.
3. Provision should be made so that veterans desiring to purchase or enter into business might borrow a similar amount as that to which those entering farming are entitled and under the same conditions. At present no provision is made for those who desire to go into business.
4. Both the Veterans Land Act and those desiring to take advantage of proposal #3 above should be entitled to pool their resources and borrowings in order to enter into a partnership or cooperative enterprise.
5. Amendments should be made to the educational (both vocational and University) regulations so that those attending educational courses might have sufficient to live on under present conditions. We support the demand for a monthly grant of \$80 monthly for single persons (instead of \$60) and a grant of \$125 a month to married veterans as advocated by the University Veterans Association and the Canadian Legion.

Basically, the welfare of the veteran is tied up with the general welfare of the population in general. The veteran returning to the farm must join forces with his fellow farmers in the fight for his needs; the urban veteran with his fellow workers to demand a program of full employment.

We support the demand of the veterans' organizations for an increase in the pension scale so that a single veteran totally incapacitated should receive an annual pension of at least \$1200 instead of \$900 as at present, other pension scales to be adjusted accordingly.



The fight of the trade unions for the 40-hour week is of the utmost importance to the veterans, as affording a greater spread of available jobs. The task of the labor movement is to bring veterans and workers into closest cooperation in order that the experiences of the last war will not be repeated when veterans were played off so effectively against the workers. To give the greatest effect to the fight for full employment, veterans must lose no time in joining their trade unions and the unions must take up the cause of veterans rehabilitation as the government's schemes in this respect leave much room for improvement.

- P R O B L E M S   O F   F I N A N C I N G -

We must now turn to the problem of financing such a program. Of course we know that Canada is a tremendously rich country and that after our enormous expenditures of wealth and manpower in the war, we are perfectly capable of achieving in the peace everything that this program advocates. However, there still remains the very thorny problem of our constitution and Dominion-Provincial fiscal relationships. The Constitution of Canada — our British North America Act — is so framed that the provinces are responsible for providing social services but given very inadequate tax powers to pay for such services. The solution of the problem therefore lies in the achievement of a democratic readjustment of Dominion-Provincial jurisdiction and financial relationships.

While it is clearly understood that only constitutional reform will remove the limitations that restrict the provincial government in the field of social services for all inhabitants of the province, and while the reconversion and development in Saskatchewan requires large scale investment and the people of Saskatchewan should demand from the Federal Government at Ottawa that Saskatchewan be included in the financing of such rehabilitation of Canada under Federal planning, this does not mean that the government of Saskatchewan should be freed from undertaking immediately in the province necessary steps for the development of electrification, road-building, and so on. To finance this the government should apply for the necessary loans through the banks in the country and ask the Federal government to underwrite and guarantee such loans if necessary.

If the government does not succeed to raise this money because of refusal of the Federal government to assist the province in rehabilitation, the Saskatchewan government should endeavor to raise this money through private lending channels.

This would enable the government to launch a program of public works that would provide jobs for a large number of workers, which in turn would provide additional revenue for the provincial treasury. The program of assistance to the farmers in

the various ways suggested in this report would make for improved and increased production and again would react favorably on government revenue. What we have to bear in mind is that no comprehensive program of reconstruction can be undertaken on the present budget. If any program is to be carried through it will have to be on the basis of borrowing as here proposed. The resources of the province, properly developed, are great enough to take care of such a loan.

### WHAT THE GOVERNMENT CAN DO

Having pointed out our limitations under the B.N.A. Act, we would like to indicate concretely some of the main things which we believe the government can accomplish while fighting for the changes in Dominion-Provincial relations that are needed.

1. Fight for foreign markets by fighting the atomic diplomacy of King, the foreign policy of the British government, the C.C.F. national leadership and the Saskatchewan Commonwealth. Protest British aggression in allied countries.
2. Fight for domestic markets by fighting for union security and worker-farmer unity. (Full support for the Ford strikers. Protest the position of McInnis, M.P. on this strike. Vote for \$10,000 for the strikers.)
3. Set an example to all other employers in the province by maintaining the highest standards in all its relationships with its employees.
4. Improve its present labor legislation by amending the trade union act. Enact a higher minimum wage and establish 100% compensation.
5. Reduce the cost of production for family farmers by encouraging cooperative purchase and use of machinery and establishing machine service stations to do custom work at cost.
6. Give assistance to small farmers to enable them to secure and use machinery on a cooperative basis.
7. Repair the highways and give assistance to the municipalities to improve the market roads in the province.
8. Provide a course of study which will fit the children of Saskatchewan to take their place as useful, socially conscious citizens of the world of tomorrow.
9. Removal of old party politicians from the civil service.



and their replacement by genuinely progressive persons.

10. Removal of the education tax from the necessities of life.

- SOCIALISM THE ONLY FINAL SOLUTION -

Having put forward our immediate program for Saskatchewan the L.P.P. emphasizes its conviction that only socialism will finally solve the problems of Saskatchewan, abolish the exploitation of Saskatchewan's people, give back to our farmers the land from which so many have been and so many more will be dispossessed. Only under socialism will we achieve full national unity and only under socialism all over the world will there come to all peoples the final certainty of peace and freedom.

We realize that there is a great deal of confusion as to what socialism really is, and as to what the difference is between the socialism we advocate and socialism advocated by the C.C.F.

The British Laborite program and the CCF program, while claiming to be socialist, are in reality nothing else but state capitalism. Nationalization in a big business economy, by a big business state apparatus, is in no sense socialism. (The Ontario Hydro was established by a Conservative government; the Quebec Hydro by a Liberal government: and both are simply state capitalist enterprises.

For instance, the coal mine industry of Britain is virtually bankrupt, and the profits of the operators are seriously endangered. Therefore, the government is going to take over the industry and try to make a go of it, at the same time compensating the operators to insure them that their income will continue indefinitely. The only difference is that while before the operators had the worry of running the mines, the government has taken that off their shoulders, and now all they have to do is sit back and wait for their cheques. This is very nice for the capitalists, but not so good for the people who have to pay the shot -- and it is not socialism.

There is only one party in Canada that is fighting for socialism. It is the party of Marxism-Leninism -- the Labor-Progressive Party. It is our task to explain to the working people in the cities and on the land that socialism means the expropriation without compensation of the capitalist monopolies in Canada by a workers and farmers State, the abolition of classes through collective ownership by the working people of all the great means of producing wealth -- the abolition of all exploitation of man by man. Socialism can only be achieved through the militant mass struggle of the workers and

farmers led by their Marxist party.

It may be asked, then, why since we are convinced of the necessity of socialism do we advocate such an immediate program as we have outlined above, which is not in any way socialistic. The answer is that we know that socialism will only be achieved as the people learn to unite and fight for immediate objectives. The program we have put forward is a program around which Saskatchewan can be united.

In the opinion of the Labor-Progressive Party, it is the working class in Saskatchewan, although numerically small, which will prove the most consistent fighter for a program of progressive reform. We base this opinion on the teachings of Marx and Lenin and on the lessons of world history which all show that it is the wage worker, who, having nothing to lose but his chains as Marx said, will always play a foremost role in all struggles for a better life.

#### - FARMERS MUST COOPERATE IN FIGHT FOR REFORMS -

Together with the workers, the farmers must fight for the reforms we need. Farmers are, however, not a single class with a single outlook. There are small farmers hounded by their creditors, tenant farmers, agricultural laborers, who can be expected to take a position almost identical with that of the working class. On the other hand there are big farmers who are able to get by quite nicely as things are, and are often more interested in extending their farms at the expense of their poorer neighbors than they are in the reforms which are so badly needed. Then there are the thousands of farmers who are neither very big or very small, who sometimes identify their interests with those of the larger farmers, but who can be convinced that their true interests lie along the road of cooperation with the small farmers and the working class. These are basic facts in the class structure of Saskatchewan, and must never be lost sight of by a party of Marxists. Nevertheless, and from the standpoint of our immediate program this is of tremendous importance, ALL THE PEOPLE OF SASKATCHEWAN, ALL CLASSES OF FARMERS AND BUSINESS PEOPLE STAND TO GAIN FROM THE CARRYING THROUGH OF THE REFORMS WHICH WE ADVOCATE, BECAUSE THESE REFORMS WILL IMPROVE THE ECONOMY OF SASKATCHEWAN. THEREFORE IT IS POSSIBLE TO UNITE PRACTICALLY ALL SECTIONS OF SASKATCHEWAN BEHIND SUCH A PROGRAM, PROVIDED THAT WE REMEMBER THAT THIS PROVINCIAL-WIDE UNITY MUST BE SPEARHEADED BY THE UNITY OF THE WORKING CLASS WITHIN ITSELF AND WITH THE SMALL FARMERS.

#### - LESSONS ON UNITY -

The lessons of the three provincial elections that have taken place recently should not be ignored. The reactionary



Tories and Liberals, seeing the trend of the people towards progress, have joined forces to defeat labor and other progressives and maintain their reactionary rule over the people. In Manitoba a coalition government of Tories, Liberals and Social Credit was strengthened at the expense of the CCF and LPP simply because of lack of unity between these two parties. In British Columbia the coalition of the Right was also reinforced at the expense of Labor. The fact that in British Columbia the Liberal-Tory coalition defeated the progressive forces even in the strongholds of labor should strengthen the fight of the LPP, the trade unions and working people generally for unity of the progressive forces, and in particular for electoral unity to defeat reactionary alliances which are being formed by Tories and Liberals. These alliances, it is well to remember, are based not on the political extinction of either of the parties to them, but solely on the ground of their common interest, which is to oppress and suppress the common people in the interest of the monopolies. The position of the CCF that the only basis on which unity of the Left can be achieved is by the LPP and trade unions effacing themselves and joining the CCF is ridiculous and reactionary, as it can only continue to keep the progressive movement divided. The position of the CCF is based on policies that are dangerous to the carrying through of a genuine anti-fascist people's program.

This program is not a partisan program in the sense that the proposals are our particular property. In the fight to win these proposals Labor-Progressives will work hand in hand with all progressives, even with members and supporters of the old parties, providing they are willing to fight for the realization of a program of reforms for Saskatchewan. Around the fight for this program of reforms we can forge the unity in action between farmers and workers and all sections of the community which alone will ensure that Saskatchewan will move forward to a better life. What we are vitally concerned about is that all people of good will in our province shall come together and fight together for the common needs of all of us. The achievement of this unity will mark a tremendous advance on the road to the abolition of insecurity and the exploitation of man by man.

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